

- cover is a supplemental Information Disclosure Statement including copies of the most relevant sections of these references for the Examiner's consideration.

Drawings

In the present office action, the Examiner objected to Figures 1-6 of the present patent application, asserting that these figures illustrate prior art and should therefore be labeled as "PRIOR ART." Applicants respectfully traverse this objection. Figures 1-6 illustrate subject matter initially disclosed in commonly owned US Patent Application Serial No. 09/133,234 (now US Patent No. 6,346,813). The present patent application claims priority to the '234 Application. Accordingly, the '234 Application is not prior art to the present application and Figures 1-6 should not be labeled as such. Applicants hereby request reconsideration of this objection.

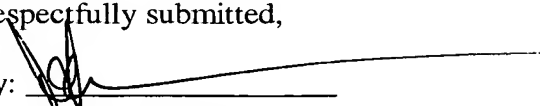
Double Patenting Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 1-29 of the present patent application under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of commonly owned US Patent No. 6,346,813. In response to this rejection, Applicants submit herewith a terminal disclaimer. Accordingly, in view of these Remarks, Applicants submit the present invention as presently claimed is patentable and respectfully requests reconsideration and further consideration of the application.

If the Examiner has any questions or believes that a discussion with Applicants' attorney would expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Date: March 19, 2003
Schlumberger-Doll Research
36 Old Quarry Road
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877-4108
Phone: (203) 431-5505

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Jody Lynn DeStefanis
Registration N° 44,653